

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2004

Hon. Henry Bonilla, Chairman
Hon. Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: FY 2005 Appropriations:
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Dear Chairman Bonilla and Ranking Member Kaptur:

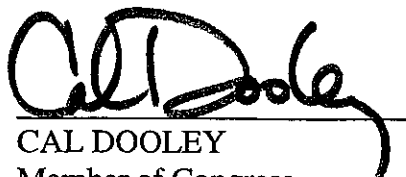
We are writing to urge you to include funding in the FY 2005 Agriculture Appropriations bill that would provide sorely needed increases in the National Research Initiative (NRI) and the restoration of 10% reductions made to CSREES base programs in FY 2004.

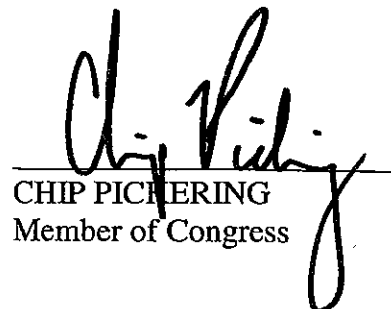
The funding for agricultural research continues to lag behind the levels provided to other national research initiatives. The National Research Initiative (NRI) - the nation's flagship agricultural research program - is able to fund only 15 percent of priority research that has already been examined by experts and deemed of high quality by peer review panels, whereas the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation typically are able to fund more than 30 percent. Many of the nation's great agricultural research institutions are also threatened by the fiscal crises of their home states. At the same time, our nation faces many critical agricultural research needs, including food safety and security, health and nutrition, and the environment. To address these critical research needs, we urge you to include not less than \$180 million for the NRI. This is consistent with the President's budget request.

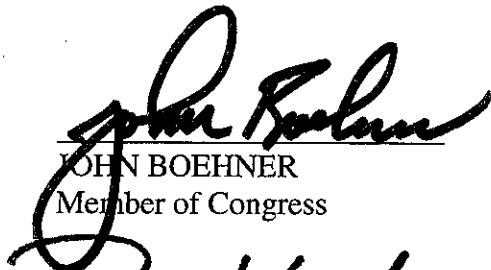
The FY 04 Omnibus Appropriations law made across-the-board 10% reductions to 33 line items that are funded by the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES). Many of these programs are critical to the needs and well being of our citizens. As an example, currently there is an epidemic of obesity in this country yet cuts to the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program have caused the layoff of hundreds of Extension staff that educate low-income families on the benefits of proper nutrition. The 10% cut also affected the IR-4 program that is designed to assist in the development of environmentally safe and effective pesticides for minor use crops. The FY 04 cuts are already affecting the availability of products in the market. We ask you to restore the 10% reductions for these 33 programs.

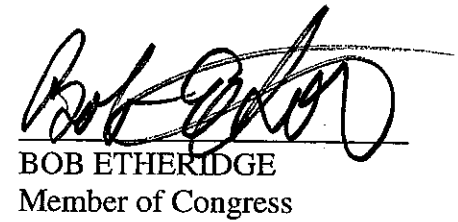
Thank you for your attention to this request.

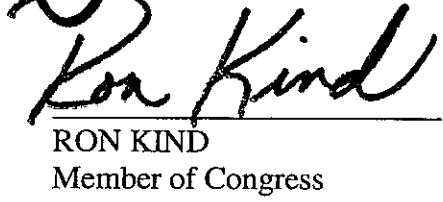
Sincerely,

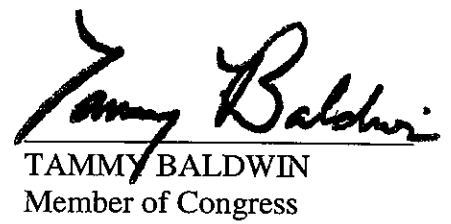

CAL DOOLEY
Member of Congress

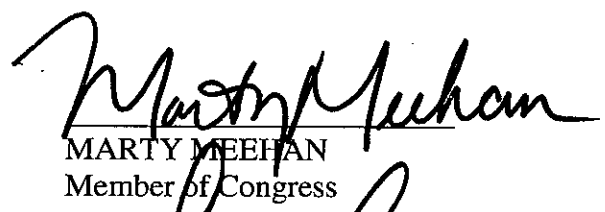

CHIP PICKERING
Member of Congress

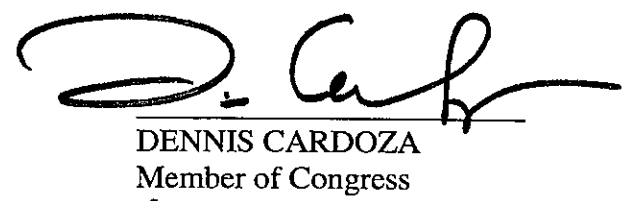

JOHN BOEHNER
Member of Congress

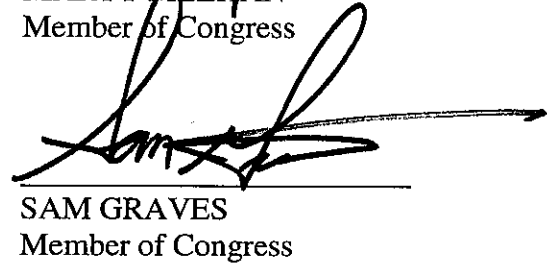

BOB ETHERIDGE
Member of Congress

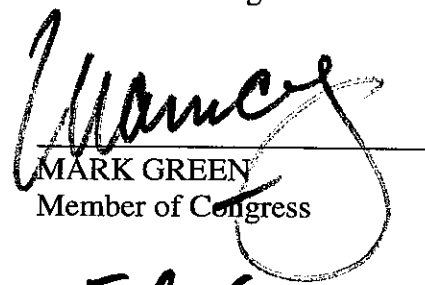

RON KIND
Member of Congress


TAMMY BALDWIN
Member of Congress

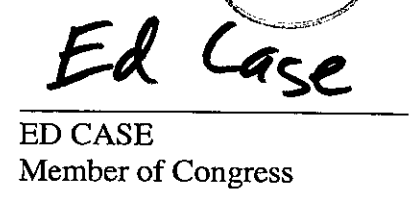

MARTY MEEHAN
Member of Congress

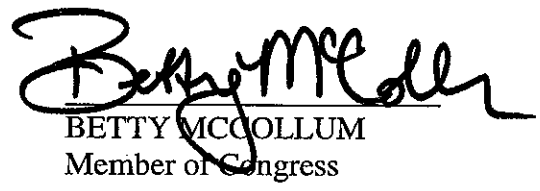

DENNIS CARDOZA
Member of Congress

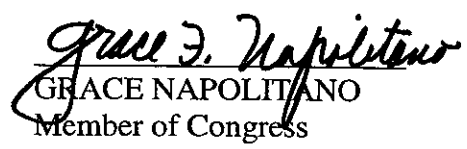

SAM GRAVES
Member of Congress

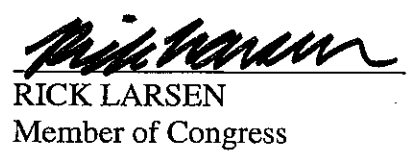

MARK GREEN
Member of Congress

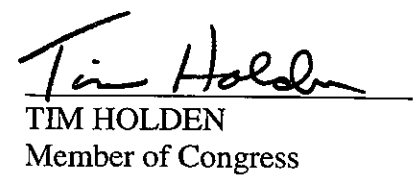

RAUL GRIJALVA
Member of Congress

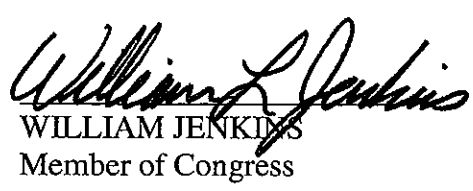

ED CASE
Member of Congress

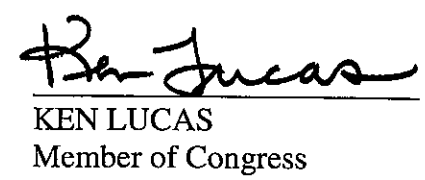

BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress

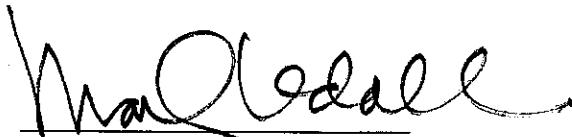

GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress


RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress

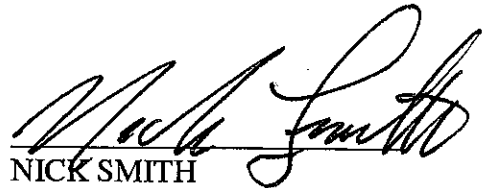

TIM HOLDEN
Member of Congress


WILLIAM JENKINS
Member of Congress

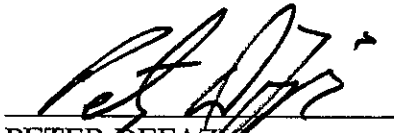

KEN LUCAS
Member of Congress



MARK UDALL
Member of Congress



NICK SMITH
Member of Congress



PETER DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



CHRIS JOHN
Member of Congress



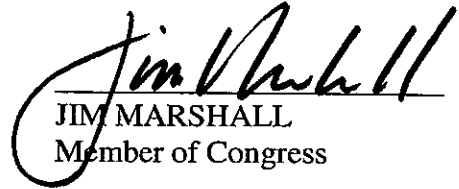
TOM ALLEN
Member of Congress



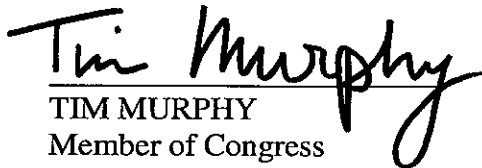
MAX BURNS
Member of Congress



JAY INSLEE
Member of Congress



JIM MARSHALL
Member of Congress



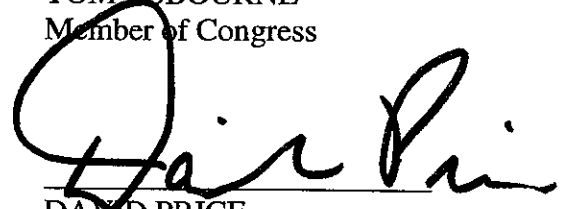
TIM MURPHY
Member of Congress



TOM OSBOURNE
Member of Congress



RICHARD NEAL
Member of Congress



DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress



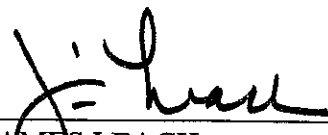
JIM TURNER
Member of Congress



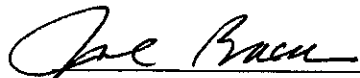
JIM MATHESON
Member of Congress





JOHN SPRATT
Member of Congress




JAMES LEACH
Member of Congress


JOE BACA
Member of Congress

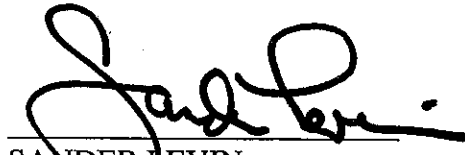

DEVIN NUNES
Member of Congress

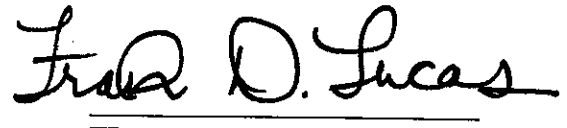

ANIBAL ACEVEDO-VILA
Member of Congress

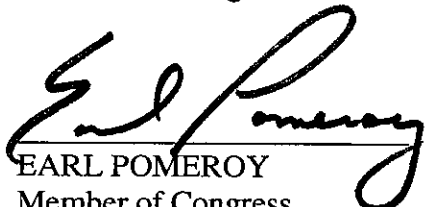

DARLENE HOOLEY
Member of Congress

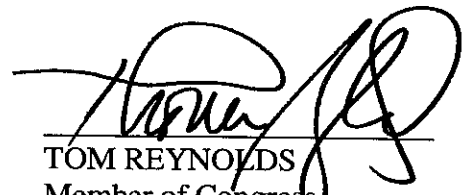

TIM JOHNSON
Member of Congress



DALE KILDEE
Member of Congress



SANDER LEVIN
Member of Congress



FRANK LUCAS
Member of Congress


EARL POMEROY
Member of Congress



TOM REYNOLDS
Member of Congress



MIKE ROSS
Member of Congress


BERNIE SANDERS
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DAVID SCOTT
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IKE SKELTON
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BRAD MILLER
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MICHAEL MICHAUD
Member of Congress